

The President's Daily Brief

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No Special Report.*

~~Top Secret~~ 24 December 1967

24 December 1967
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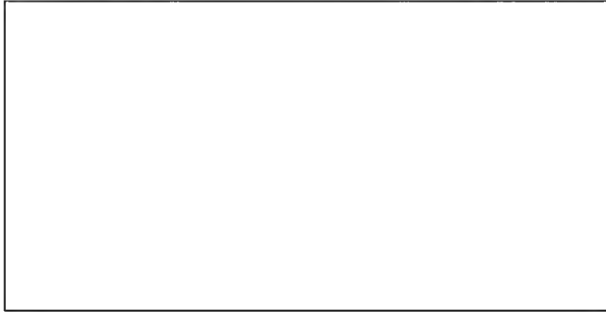
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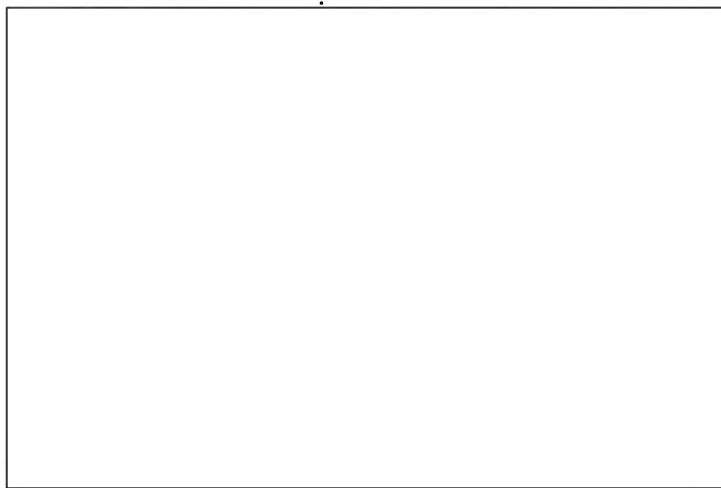
DAILY BRIEF
24 DECEMBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

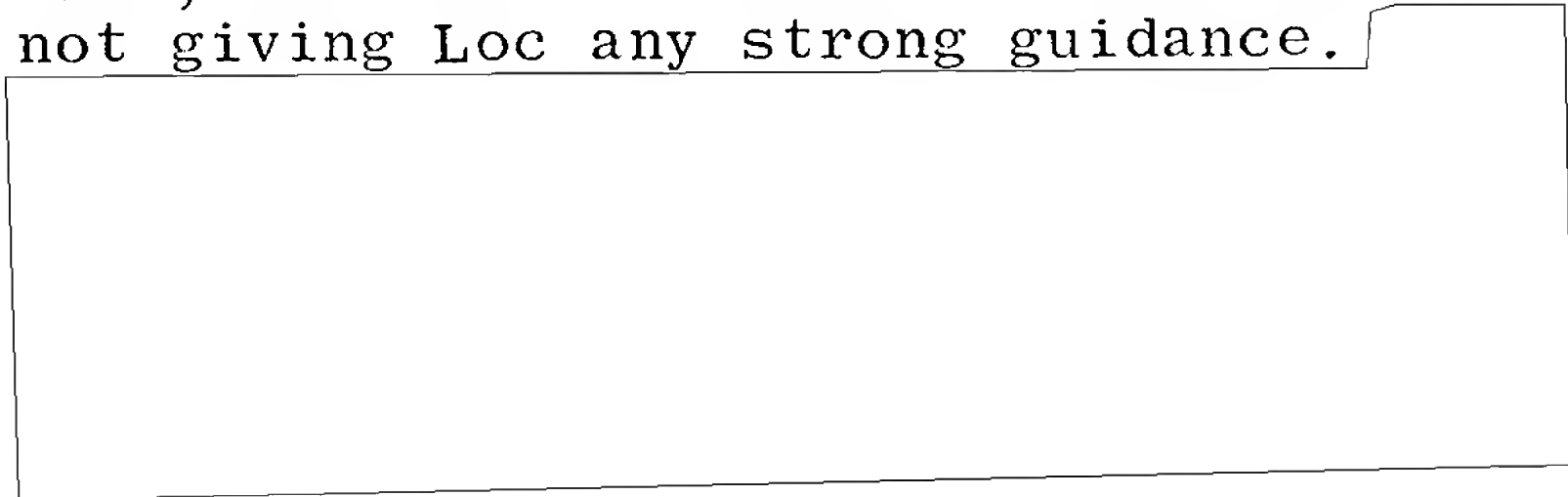


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2. South Vietnam



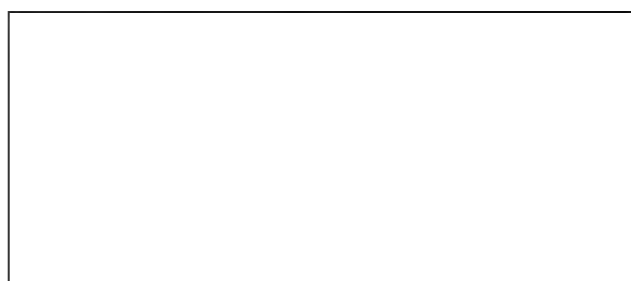
Saigon politicians continue to grumble about the new government. Much of the criticism is directed at the prime minister for his lack of initiative, but some is aimed at Thieu for not giving Loc any strong guidance.



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3. Cambodia



According to the French, the Cambodian foreign minister has said that the International Control Commission in Cambodia cannot be beefed up simply by agreement between Cambodia and its members; rather, any such move is up to the British and Soviets, as Geneva co-chairmen.

The foreign minister also noted receiving US documentation on Communist use of Cambodian sanctuary. He said he did not think it was very reliable because it was based on prisoner interrogations.

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4. Soviet Union

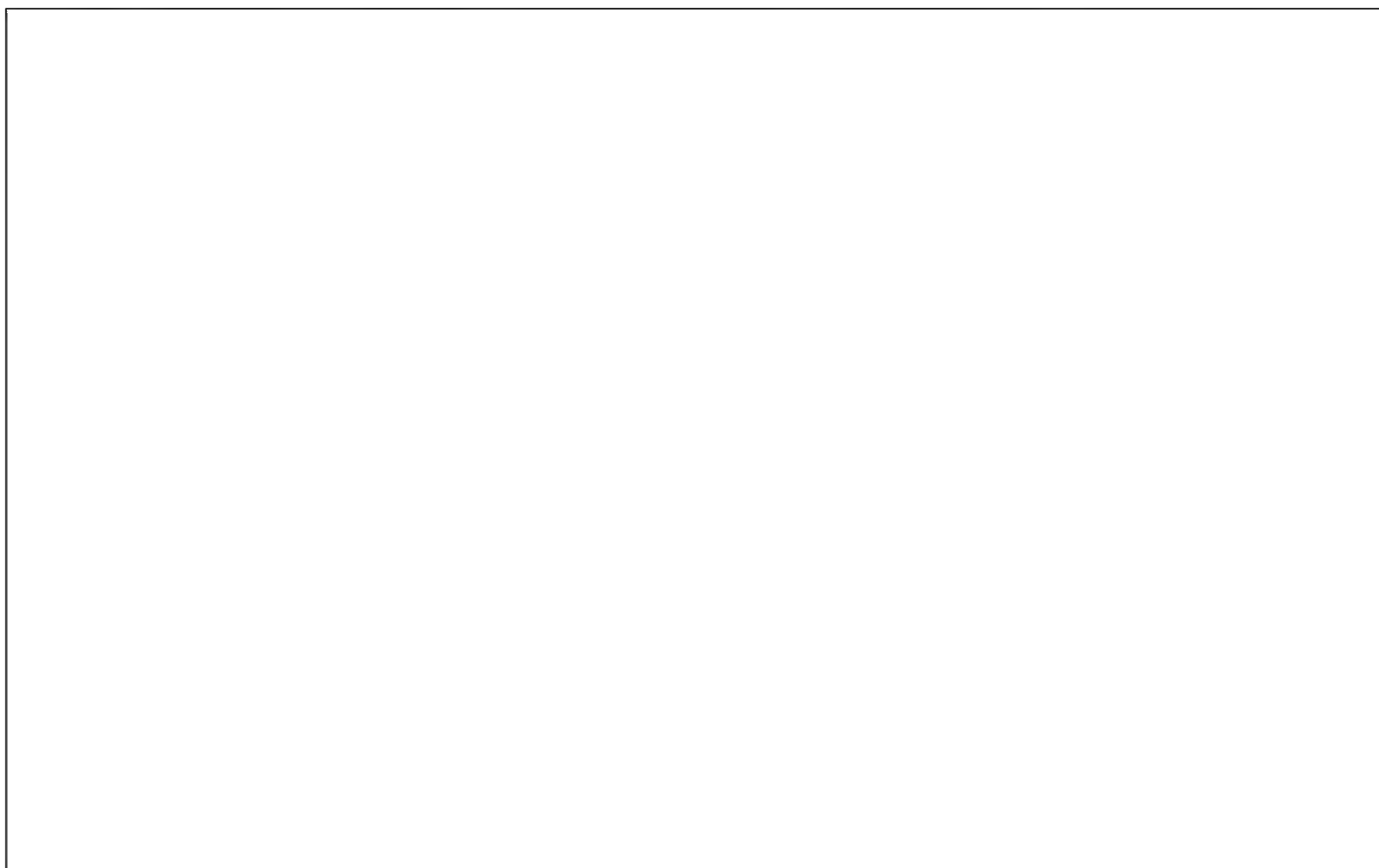
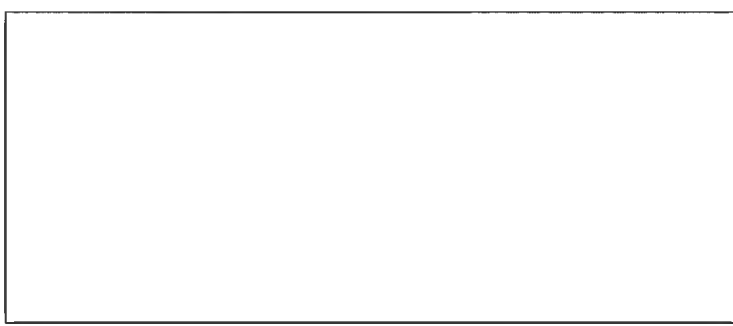


Radio Moscow described the Vietnamese aspects of the President's television interview last Tuesday night as containing "nothing new or constructive." An English language broadcast Friday went on to call the trip to Australia a "war council."

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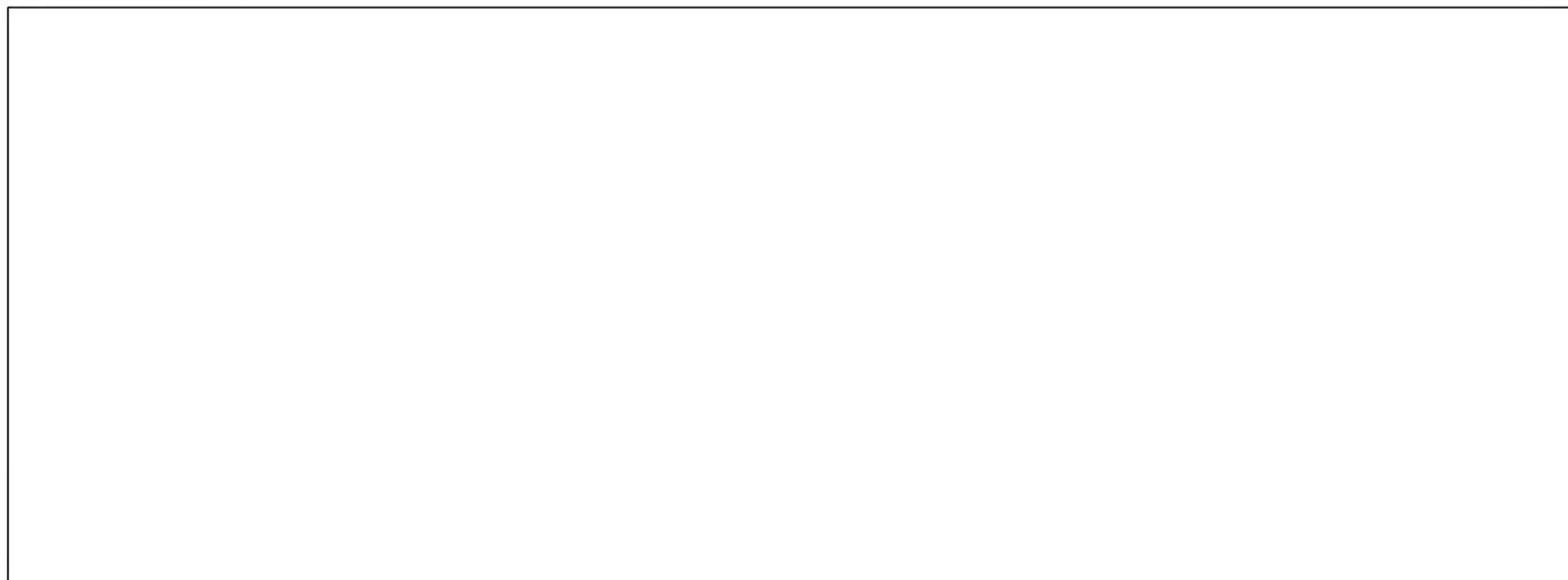
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5. Soviet Union



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6. Belgium



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7. Communist China



A picture of low morale and reduced combat readiness in the Chinese Army has been painted by a recent defector. The defector

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_____ said even such "front-line" divisions as his spend two-thirds of their time at political study meetings. He also said much of the army was tied down trying to maintain--or restore--public order. _____ confirm the defector's general statements that the Chinese Army is paying a high price for the Cultural Revolution.

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8. Greece

If King Constantine is looking for a way to justify his return to Greece, he could use the junta's announcement of a date for a constitutional referendum. This meets a part of his condition that a timetable be set for return to parliamentary democracy. However, Constantine has said nothing about going back, although he has issued a statement welcoming the amnesty granted political prisoners.

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Whatever the King does, his prerogatives under any new constitution are going to be restricted. The junta feels strongly on this score and the Greek public will not take up the cudgels for a powerful royal family--in fact, many Greeks plainly do not care if the King returns at all. If his mother proposes to accompany him, they would prefer he stay away.

Papadopoulos for his part may create some problems for himself within the junta, where some officers undoubtedly feel he is moving toward a new government with too much speed.